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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 L-03 CCO-00
CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-08 FCC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06
COME-00 BIB-01 PM-05 H-01 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 /066 W
----------073097 211736Z /47
O R 211700Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6957
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
ARUSNAAA/CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

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SECDEF FOR DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY - MR. WHELAN

CINCEUR FOR ECLA - MR. ARON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, ETEL, MARR, GW
SUBJECT: U.S. PROBLEMS WITH FRG BUNDESPOST

REF: (A) USCINCEUR 181100ZMAR 78; (B) BONN 2181;
(C) STATE 58744

SUMMARY: IN MARCH 21 MEETING WITH FRG STATE SECRETARY ELIAS, EMBASSY'S MINISTER-COUNSELOR FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS STRESSED NEED TO BEGIN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AT TECHNICAL LEVEL SOONEST IN ORDER TO SEEK SOLUTIONS FOR THE PBX AND LONG-LINE PROBLEMS. HE ALSO REQUESTED THAT THE RHEIN MAIN PBX SYSTEM BE CONNECTED IMMEDIATELY, BEFORE THE DISCUSSIONS BEGIN. ELIAS AGREED TO INFORMAL, TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE PBX ISSUE BUT ONLY AFTER BUNDESPOST TECHNICIANS HAD THE
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OPPORTUNITY TO INSPECT THE RHEIN MAIN PBX AND THE BASE TELEPHONE SYSTEM IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHAT, IF ANY, PROBLEMS EXIST. ELIAS ALSO AGREED TO DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE LONG-LINE ISSUE BUT SAID THE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD INVOLVE FOUR PRINCIPALS: THE BUNDESPOST, THE GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE U.S. MILITARY AND THE EMBASSY. HE SUGGESTED THAT PARALLEL DISCUSSIONS

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CONCERNING PRINCIPLES AND TECHNICAL QUESTIONS OF THE LONG-LINES BE ENTERED INTO. ON THE EUROPEAN TELEPHONE SYSTEM ISSUE, ELIAS EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS SERIOUS IN WANTING BOTH SIDES TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF A LEASE-BUY ARRANGEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A MARCH 21 MEETING WITH STATE SECRETARY ELIAS OF THE FRG POSTAL MINIST (BPM), THE EMBASSY'S MINISTER-COUNSELOR FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS RAISED THE ISSUES OF THE RHEIN MAIN PBX SYSTEM AND THE LONG-LINES AGREEMENT AND STRESSED THE NEED TO BEGIN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO AVOID HAVING THESE PROBLEMS CONTINUE TO GROW. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE U.S. CONSIDERS RHEIN MAIN SYSTEM, WITH ITS NEW PBX, TO BE TECHNICALLY AND OPERATIONALLY COMPATIBLE WITH THE GERMAN TELEPHONE SYSTEM AND URGED THAT THE PBX BE HOOKED UP IMMEDIATELY, EVEN BEFORE THE DISCUSSIONS BEGAN.

2. ELIAS FELT SIEMENS WAS AS MUCH AT FAULT AS ANYONE FOR NOT INFORMING THE U.S. AIR FORCE OF POSSIBLE ATTENUATION PROBLEMS WITH THE NEW PBX. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT SIEMENS AND RHEIN MAIN OFFICERS WERE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF SIEMENS SELLING NEW PHONES TO THE BASE WHERENECESSARY AND TAKING BACK THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OLD ONES. ELIAS AGREED THAT TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE NEW PBX COULD BE HELD BUT POINTED OUT THAT BUNDES-POST TECHNICIANS WLD HAVE TO EXAMINE THE PBX AND THE BASE'S TELEPHONE SYSTEM FIRST, IN ORDER TO DETERMINE

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 L-03 CCO-00
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COME-00 BIB-01 PM-05 H-01 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 /066 W
----------073125 211735Z /47
O R 211700Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6958
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

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WHAT PROBLEMS NEEDED TO BE DISCUSSED. ELIAS AGREED THAT THE SYSTEM SHOULD NOT STAND IDLE AND SAID HE BELIEVED THE PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED WITH SIEMENS WILLING TO ASSIST.

3. ELIAS TERMED THE LONG-LINES ISSUE A DIFFERENT AND MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEM AND NOT ONE EASILY SUSCEPTIBLE TO TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS. HE SAID THE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY EXPLORED AND THAT THE ISSUE WAS ONE OF PRINCIPLE, I.E., THE U.S. AND THE FRG DISAGREE AS TO WHETHER U.S. FORCES HAVE A SPECIAL LEGAL STATUS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WAS DISAGREEMENT ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE LONG-LINES.

4. THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR REPLIED THAT THE UNITED STATES CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT ITS INTERPRETATION OF THE SOFA AND ITS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT WAS CORRECT. THE MOST RECENT NOTES FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
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SUGGESTED THAT GERMAN AUTHORITIES WERE EQUALLY CONVINCED OF THE CORRECTNESS OF THEIR INTERPRETATION. THUS IT BECAME EVEN MORE IMPERATIVE TO GET THE TECHNICIANS TALKING IN ORDER TO FIND COMMON GROUND. HE STRESSED THAT THESE TALKS SHOULD NOT FOCUS DIRECTLY ON LEGAL PRINCIPLES, SHOULD BEGIN WITHOUT PRIOR CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY EITHER SIDE AND SEEK TO IDENTIFY AND RESOLVE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS. ELIAS FELT ENOUGH TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE ON THE SUBJECT BUT SAID HE WAS WILLING TO TRY AGAIN. HE SUGGESTED THAT PARALLEL MEETINGS AMONG THE BUNDESPOST, THE FOREIGN OFFICE, THE U.S. MILITARY AND THE EMBASSY TAKE PLACE TO EXAMINE BOTH THE PROBLEMS OF PRINCIPLE AND THE TECHNICAL ISSUES.

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5. ELIAS THEN TURNED TO THE EUROPEAN TELEPHONE SYSTEM, STATING THAT ALTHOUGH THE FRG PREFERRED TO SELL THE SYSTEM TO THE U.S., HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED. HE SAID THAT PART OF THE ETS PROBLEM MAY BE RESOLVED NEXT YEAR WHEN THE PRICE OF TELEPHONE SERVICES ARE LOWERED BUT THAT IN THE MEANTIME, HE WAS QUITE SERIOUS IN WANTING TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITIES OF A LEASE-BUY ARRANGEMENT. ELIAS SAID THE U.S. COULD LEASE THE SYSTEM AND PAY IT OUT IN FIVE OR SIX INSTALLMENTS, WHILE THE FRG WOULD CONSIDER IT A PURCHASE. HE SAID HE DESCRIBED THIS APPROACH TO THE PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON DURING HIS VISIT THERE LAST MONTH AND THAT THEY WERE EXPLORING THE PROPOSAL.
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Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3261344
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. PROBLEMS WITH FRG BUNDESPOST
TAGS: MPOL, ETEL, MARR, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
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